Rehabilitation of people affected by Sardar Sarovar Project

1957. SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:

SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fast that according to the report of the Narmada Control Authority, rehabilitation work of the people likely to be affected by the Sardar Sarovar Project in the State of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra is unsatisfactory and that the State Governments of Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat have not yet submitted detailed action plan for resettlement and rehabilitation of the affected persons; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof standing the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) and (b) The resettlement of the project affected people under the Sardar Sarovar Project in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra is scheduled to be completed in a phased manner during the years 1990-91, 1993 and 1993-94 respectively. Several rounds of discussions had been held with the concerned State Governments and they had been addressed periodically to implement the rehabilitation and resettlement programmes of the project affected people in a time-bound manner. On account of these follow-up measures, the concerned State Governments have made considerable progress in the Rehabilitation & Resettlement activities and it is anticipated that the resettlement programmes will proceed progressively alongwith construction shedule of the Sardar Sarovar Project.

News item captioned "freedom of press or potatoes"

1958. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item captioned 'Freedom of Press or Potatoes" published in Blitz of 18th March, 1989 regarding Rs. 3 crores claimed by the Express Group in relation to transaction in potatoes, steel scrap and shares were bogus and that Government have granted permission to prosecute M/s. Express Newspaper Limited for fraudulent claims;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and also the findings of the Income Tax authorities regarding inflated accounts of Indian Express Group about consumption of newsprint; and

(c) what action Goernment propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) M/s Express Newspapers Limited, Madras, have claimed losses on transactions in potatoes, steel scrap and shares for the assessment years 1985-86 to 1987-88 as under:—

Asstt. Year	Losses on transactions in		
	Potatoes Rs.	Steel Scrap Rs.	Shares Rs.
1985-86	74,65,319	17,97,081	24, 39,067
1986-87	76,56,943	17,37,593	1,08,27,592
1987-88	Nil.	**	88,86,040

**Profit of Rs. 9,04,832 has been shown.

In the Assessment. Order for the Asstt. Year 1985-86, the Assessing Officer has found the transactions in potatoes, steel scrap and shares to be not genuine and the losses bogus. In appeal, the disallowance of losses made by the Assessing Officer, was confirmed by the C.I.T. (Appeals). Prosecution has been lanuched against M/s. Express Newspapers Ltd., Madras in respect of Assessment Year 1985-86 for evasion of Income-tax. The assessments for the Assessment Years 1986-87 and 1987-88 have been taken up by the Assessing Officer.

In the assessments framed for the Assessment Years 1983-84, 1985-86 and 1986-87 in the case of M|s. Indian Express Newspapers (Bombay) (P) Limited, the Assessing Officer found that the newsprint consumption account was inflated by making a notional debit in respect of anticipated liabilities expected to arise in future, consequent to newsprint loans from sister concerns and disallowed such notional debits to the newspriht consmuption account, as under:

Assessment Year	Notional debit disallowed in assessment
	Rs.
1983-84	30,59,278
1985-86	19,41,624
1986-87	34,90,581

Besides tht above, in the case of M/s. Indian Express Newspapers (Bombay) (P) Limited, in the assessment framed for the aassessment year 1985-86, the Assessing Officer found that the assessee had inflated its newsprint consumption account by (a) Rs. 37,97,894 being newsprint loans from two parties found to be bogus and (b) Rs. 57,60,458 being price difference allowed to a sister concern and added the said amounts while computing the income.

In the case of M/s. Traders (P) Limited, in the assessment for the assessment year 1986-87 Rs. 19,09,036 was added back as discrepancy in the newsprint loan account.

(c) Appropriate action as called for under the Direct Taxes Enactments is taken from time to time.

Cutting down of imports of luxury items

1959. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has been advised by the World Bank to reduce its ever-widening deficit as reported in the Times of India of 22nd June, 1989;

(b) whether Government propose to cut down imports of items like milk products, vegetable oils and pulses etc. in view of the Green and White Revolutions; and

(c) what amount of foreign exchange was spent on the import of various farm products during 1988-89;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) At the Aid India Consortium Meeting held in Paris on June 19-20, 1989, members appreciated the progress achieved by Government of India in reducing the budget deficit. Some of them said that they looked forward to further improvement in this direction. However, no specific suggestions were made in this regard.

(b) and (c) During 1988-89, the Government had to improve foodgrains, milk products, cereals, vegetable oils and pulses worth about Rs. 1800 crores in order to meet tht shortfall in these items as a